

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A landscape stake system for receiving a landscape edging board, comprising:

a stake member comprising a tapered lower region for insertion into the ground, an upper region having a first channel formed therein for receiving a first portion of the landscape edging board, and an intermediate region extending between the upper and lower regions, wherein the upper region includes at least two vertical tabs extending vertically from the intermediate region in a direction opposite of the lower region of the stake member and forming opposing walls of the first channel; and

a hammer cap comprising a first region having a striking surface member and a second region having vertical legs extending from the striking surface member first region and forming opposing walls of a second channel for receiving a second portion of the landscape edging board, wherein the vertical legs of the hammer cap being operably couplable with the vertical tabs of the stake member wherein the striking surface member is maintained in spaced relation with the stake member, and wherein the first and second channels combine to form an open-ended edging board channel having four walls formed by the first and second vertical legs and tabs, the striking surface member and the intermediate region of the stake member that extend about the landscape edging board when received therein and allow the landscape edging board to freely extend out the open ends of the edging board channel , the edging board channel being greater in height than the landscape edging board.

2. (Original) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the intermediate region comprises a center supporting rib.

3. (Withdrawn) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the intermediate region comprises I-beam construction.

4. (Withdrawn) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the lower region further comprises lateral fins.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the

vertical tabs further comprise a plurality of substantially horizontal grooves.

7. (Original) The landscape stake system of claim 6, wherein the plurality of horizontal grooves are dimensioned to receive the head of a fastener.

8. (Previously presented) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the vertical tabs further comprise one or more apertures, each aperture being dimensioned to receive the body of a fastener.

9. (Original) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the intermediate region is tapered.

10. (Withdrawn) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the width of the first channel at an upper portion of the first channel is smaller than the width at a lower portion of the first channel.

11. (Currently Amended) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the first and second channels form an edging board channel when the vertical walls of the hammer cap are coupled to the at least two vertical tabs of the upper region of the stake member, wherein the height of the edging board channel is greater than the height of the landscape edging board wherein a gap remains between the top of the landscape edging board and the striking surface member of the first region of the hammer cap during insertion of the lower region into the ground.

12. (Original) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the width of the first region of the hammer cap is greater than the width of an upper portion of the second region, thereby defining a finger guard.

13. (Original) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the intermediate and lower region comprise a continuous taper.

14. (Original) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the hammer cap is configured to receive the upper region of the stake member.

15. (Withdrawn) The landscape stake system of claim 1, wherein the width of an upper portion of the intermediate region is greater than the width of the upper region.

16. (Withdrawn) The landscape stake system of claim 15, wherein the hammer cap is

configured to receive an upper portion of the intermediate region of the stake member.

17. (Withdrawn) A stake for receiving a landscape edging board, comprising:

a lower region configured to be inserted into the ground and including a tapered tip;

an upper region;

an intermediate region extending between the upper and lower regions; and

wherein the upper region includes at least two substantially vertical tabs defining a channel dimensioned to receive a portion of the landscape edging board, wherein a distance between the vertical tabs at an upper portion of the channel is smaller than a distance between the vertical tabs at a lower portion of the channel, the vertical tabs further comprising a plurality of substantially horizontal grooves, each horizontal groove being dimensioned to receive the head of a fastener, and defining one or more apertures, each aperture being dimensioned to receive a fastener.

18. (Withdrawn) The stake of claim 17, wherein the lower region further comprises lateral fins.

19. (Withdrawn) The stake of claim 17, wherein the intermediate region further comprises a tapered region.

20. (Withdrawn) The stake of claim 17, wherein the intermediate region further comprises an I-beam.

- 21.—31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A landscape stake system, comprising:

a stake member having first and second arms extending from a base forming a first recess; and

a cap having first and second legs extending from a strike surface member to form a second recess, the first and second legs of the cap being operably coupled to the first and second arms of the stake wherein the strike surface member remains in spaced relation with the stake member and wherein the first and second recess coextensively form an open-ended channel

having four walls formed by the first and second legs and arms, the base of the stake member and the strike surface member of the cap that extend about four sides of a landscape board when received therein and allow the landscape board to freely extend out through the open ends of the open-ended channel wherein the height of the channel is greater than the height of the landscape board.

33. (Withdrawn) The landscape stake system of claim 32, wherein the stake member further comprises a pair of vertical tabs.

34. (Withdrawn) The landscape stake system of claim 33, wherein the pair of vertical tabs each comprise a plurality of horizontal grooves.

35. (Withdrawn) The landscape stake system of claim 33, wherein the pair of vertical tabs each comprise one or more apertures being configured to receive a fastener.

36. (Currently Amended) A stake for receiving and installing a landscape edging board, comprising:

a lower region configured to be inserted into the ground and including a tapered tip;

an intermediate region extending from the lower region and comprising a tapered region;

an upper region extending from the intermediate region and having at least two substantially vertical tabs defining a first channel dimensioned to receive a portion of the landscape edging board; and

a hammer cap having a strike surface member and vertical walls extending from the strike surface member defining a second channel, the vertical walls of the hammer cap being couplable with the vertical tabs of the upper region wherein the strike surface member is maintained in spaced relation to the upper region and wherein the first and second channels combine to form an open-ended board channel having four walls extending about the landscape edging board when received therein and allowing the landscape edging board to freely extending out through the open ends of the board channel.

37. (Withdrawn) The stake of claim 36, wherein a distance between the vertical tabs

at an upper portion of the channel is smaller than a distance between the vertical tabs at a lower portion of the channel.

38. (Original) The stake of claim 36, wherein the vertical tabs further comprising a plurality of substantially horizontal grooves, each horizontal groove being dimensioned to receive the head of a fastener.

39. (Original) The stake of claim 36, wherein the horizontal grooves define one or more apertures, each aperture being dimensioned to receive a fastener.

40. (Withdrawn) The stake of claim 36, wherein the intermediate region further comprises an I-beam.

41. (Original) The stake of claim 36, wherein the intermediate region and the lower region comprise a continuous taper.

42. (Withdrawn) The stake of claim 36, wherein the lower region further comprises one or more lateral fins.